



General Library Item

Name Meeting Highlights - November 27, 2017

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Scarsdale Board of Education Meeting Highlights November 27, 2017

Special Meeting

At 6:45 p.m. William Natbony, President of the Board of Education, convened a Special Meeting, and moved into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Smart Schools Bond Public Hearing

At 7:30 p.m. the Board convened a Public Hearing on the Smart Schools Bond. Jerry Crisci, Director of Instructional Technology, presented a brief update on how the District proposes to use this state funding for technology upgrades, including the purchase of interactive whiteboards and mobile carts. Mr. Natbony then opened the floor for public comment. Hearing no requests to speak, Mr. Natbony closed the Public Hearing.

Business Meeting

Following the Public Hearing, Mr. Natbony convened the Business Meeting, reporting that all Board members were present. Mr. Natbony and Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools, extended belated Thanksgiving wishes.

Dr. Hagerman reported that the District commissioned an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) screening at Greenacres Elementary School in response to concerns expressed by staff and members of the Greenacres community. The work was performed by Registered Hygienist Ernest Coon (of Regulatory Compliance), based in Thornwood. Sampling detection and identification was performed by Environmental Laboratory Services. This comprehensive screening of Indoor Air Quality was conducted to test for the existence of any air-related hazards in the environment, including *carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, formaldehyde, total petroleum hydrocarbons, biological/bio-aerosol sampling (which includes mold), temperature, total nuisance dust, and relative humidity*. Testing was conducted in all building occupied spaces (40 spaces in total) and the (non-student occupied) basement area (7 spaces in total).

The methodology, results, observations and discussions, and recommendations are all included in the full study, which can be found on the District's webpage [here](#).

There were some elevated scores for mold in four rooms, and the District followed all the remediation recommendations in the report, performing the work over the Thanksgiving weekend. Re-testing of the affected areas was scheduled for the following week.

The Board approved items on the consent agenda, including a Personnel Report presented by Dr. Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development.

Education Report

Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, presented a detailed Education Report on Student Assessment, noting that it is one of the three, integral facets of the teaching and learning cycle, along with curriculum and instruction.

Ms. Shain explained that student assessment in the Scarsdale Schools includes both formal and informal classroom assessments and standardized testing, but noted that "standardized testing" is not synonymous with "student assessment." Standardized testing is a snapshot in time of student performance on a given measure. Student assessment is much broader, encompassing a variety of ways to determine how students are progressing along a trajectory of learning over time.

Ms. Shain reported that in Scarsdale, student assessment includes authentically evaluating students' abilities, relative strengths and weaknesses, and their ability to apply knowledge to "the real world." It is an ongoing, iterative process in every classroom, and critical to effective teaching and learning.

Ms. Shain then reviewed the various forms of assessment, formal, and informal, employed by Scarsdale's teachers; and the methods and approaches employed by the District to ascertain the overall efficacy of teaching and learning, including international comparisons with high-performing schools made possible by Scarsdale's participation in the Global Learning Alliance.

The full report includes an extensive appendix of materials, including standardized testing results for the mandated New York State Grades 3-8 tests, and SAT, Advanced Placement, Regents, and ACT tests for high school students; an overview of Scarsdale's K-8 assessments and High School common final assessments; college acceptance data, data on students named as National Merit semifinalists or receiving Letters of Commendation; and Global Learning Alliance assessment results.

Ms. Shain's presentation to the Board and the full report and appendix of materials may be accessed on the District website under Curriculum/Student Assessment [here](#).

Community members were invited to address the Board, and three did so:

- Michelle Sterling, Brayton Road, thanked the Board for arranging comprehensive mold testing at Greenacres, asked about the availability of 2015 mold testing results and the efficacy of ongoing remediation, and requested that an expert in the field meet with the community to answer questions.
- Paulina Schwartz, Oakstwin Road, a member of the Greenacres Building Committee, asked about long-term planning for Greenacres mold testing and remediation.
- Patricia Schwartz, Walworth Avenue, a member of the Greenacres Building Committee, thanked the Board regarding the mold testing, and requested further information on remediation results and plans for re-testing.

2018 Bond Presentation

The Board heard a detailed report from a consultant, J.C. Broderick & Associates, on its State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) recommendations, presented by Kristen Nannini. Accompanying her were Edward McGuire, also of J.C. Broderick, and Judson Siebert, an attorney with Keane & Beane (the District's law firm).

The entire 370-page report may be accessed on the District website [here](#).

The report includes forms and supporting information and documents utilized in the determination of significance, including:

- The Proposed Scarsdale Public Schools Bond Project Summary of Scope of Work
- The Greenacres Elementary Task Force October 4, 2017 BOE Submittal
- The Park East Construction Corp. Greenacres Elementary School Construction and Safety Procedures, November 22, 2017 (subject to revision and BOE approval)
- Greenacres Elementary School Building Inspections
- The completed Part I: Environmental Assessment Form for each campus
- The collective Part 2: Identification of Potential Project Impacts Form
- The collective part 3: Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance Form

Ms. Nannini reported that her firm performed a (SEQR) review of the proposed scope of work for the Scarsdale Public Schools Proposed Bond Referendum, and declared, as stated in the report's cover letter:

"It is our opinion that the scope of work is categorized as an Unlisted Action under 6 NYCRR Part 617 (State Environmental Quality Review). Environmental Assessment Forms were completed and have concluded that based upon the information and analysis performed, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts under Environmental Conservation Law, Article 8."

Ms. Nannini explained that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides various forms for a lead agency to determine significance of a project based on the classification of the project. Part 1 of these forms compile detailed site-specific physical aspects of the project site; Part 2 is designed to help a lead agency identify and inventory the potential resources that could be affected by a proposed project; and Part 3 provides an evaluation of impacts and a detailed justification for the determination of significance.

Ms. Nannini explained further that as part 1 of these forms is designed typically for a single project site, one Part I form was not feasible for the Scarsdale Public Schools Project since it involves seven school campuses, a separate Part I was completed for each site to allow for maximum detail documentation. All the details presented in the Part I forms were reviewed and compiled to prepare single Parts 2 and 3.

Mr. Siebert noted that the Board has the final word on adoption of the SEQR determination.

Ms. Nannini reviewed some of the details in the determinations concerning the Greenacres project, including impact on land, energy consumption, noise/odor/light, asbestos/lead/mold, and transportation. The firm's conclusions were that construction would have some temporary and minimal impact in some of these areas, but nothing lasting or significant once construction is completed.

The Board discussed these findings with Ms. Nannini, and requested that additional information about the Board's intentions concerning noise and air quality monitoring be added to the report.

Community members were invited to address the Board for a second time, but none did so.

The Board approved the Smart Schools Bond proposal and an employee union contract.

In follow-up to public comment, Mr. Natbony noted that previous mold testing reports are already posted on the website. With regard to future testing, Dr. Hagerman noted that this will be considered during the annual school budget process, and that a presentation by a mold expert might be appropriate for a PT Council meeting.

Mr. Natbony conducted a wrap-up of the meeting, and Board Vice President Scott Silberfein announced a Public Forum on the 2018 Bond Projects scheduled for December 4, and a Board meeting on December 11.

The Board adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

The Board meeting may be viewed on the District website (under Scarsdale Cable TV) [here](#).